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The Symphony of Life. By HENRY WOOD. Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1901. Pages 3-302, 12°.

This book is an excellent example of evangelical exegesis of a modern and healthful type. The author is a well-known writer on philosophic topics; and in this latest product he enters temperately and judiciously into that broad field of thought bounded on the one hand by the time-honored ways of faith and flanked on the other hand by the straight-laid paths of modern science. Conservative enough on the whole, he is notably tolerant of the facts discovered and established through exact observation and precise reasoning, and indeed recognizes fully the ultimate necessity of adjusting standards of thought and feeling to the verities of experience. The book is not for the specialist in anthropology, save in relaxation or as a means of adjustment to the more intuitive humanities toward which research is steadily advancing: yet as a stepping-stone toward the science it is well adapted to widespread habits of thought.

W J MCGEE.

Researches in the Central Portion of the Usumatsintla Valley. By TEOBERT MALER. Memoirs of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Vol. II, No. 1. Salem, 1901. 75 pp., 33 plates, 26 figures, 4°.

Any work which adds to our knowledge of the prehistoric times of our continent is a welcome visitor, but more especially one which, like the memoir named above, brings us something additional in regard to the remains of the Mayas of Central America, who, by their self progress, had made the nearest approach to civilization of any native people of America.

The large amount of material collected by the recent explorations in Central America, and the advance made toward the interpretation of the inscriptions, have, while throwing new light on the mystery of the Mayan ruins, also brought forward new problems to be solved, hence the earnest desire for additional data bearing on these problems. Mr Maler's paper is a real contribution in this respect, as it furnishes not only descriptions of ruins hitherto undescribed, but also photographic copies of additional inscriptions and figures. Fortunately he has also presented with his paper a map of the region over which his explorations extended, by which we are enabled to locate definitely the ruins mentioned,—a most important aid in the study of tribal differences in culture.

The region over which these explorations extended appears to be embraced in that part of Usumasinta valley (or Usumasintla, as he

writes it) from Tenosique on the north, up (southward) to Menche (Charnay's "Lorillard City," or Yaxchilan as Maler gives it, if I interpret his map correctly). The ruins described are those at La Reforma, Chinikihá, Chancala, Xupá, and Piedras Negras, the chief portion of his paper being devoted to a description of those at the latter point.

La Reforma is situated almost directly east of Palenque, on Chacamax river, about two-thirds the distance from Palenque to Usumasinta river. There is but brief mention of the ruins in the vicinity of this village, unaccompanied by figures.

*Chinikihá*¹ is the name of some ruins on Chinikihá river, a few leagues almost directly south of Reforma. Although evidence was discovered here of several structures of considerable size, they were found to be in such a ruinous state that but little could be ascertained in regard to their plans. The terraced pyramid surmounted by a temple was the prevailing form; the latter, however, in such a ruinous condition that in one instance only could indications of rooms be discovered. "We first explored," says the author, "all the remains on the right of the road, but found nothing but remnants of walls and terraces, with the exception that in one building we found small rear rooms in a half-preserved condition; everything else was completely in ruins." The most important discovery was an altar slab, though not in its original position. On the top of this were parts of two rows of *incised* glyphs, which are figured; on the edges were also bands of glyphs of which photographs are given; the latter were in the usual low relief. All are of the usual type.

Chancala.—This is the name given a group of ruins lying directly west of Chinikihá, and on Chancala river. Here, as the author states, he was "successful in discovering a temple in a fairly good state of preservation, which crowned a small pyramid of six terraces." This, as appears from the figure, is of the small, rectangular, single-room type. The means of ascent was by two flights of stairs on one side—one to a platform extending out from the third terrace, the other from that point to the top. The broad frieze, instead of being perpendicular, sloped inward toward the flat top.

Xupá.—This group of ruins is situated a little north of west from Chancala, and about an equal distance, a little east of south, from Palenque. Of this group Mr Maler says: "The ruins are situated on the right bank of the Xupá and are of considerable extent. Nearly all of the buildings appear to have had great substructures built of good hewn stone. The superstructures are almost without exception in ruins,

¹ Mr Maler gives *ts* as representing the sound of *ch*.

but in all directions there are massive substructures, many of which are of considerable size." However, his search for sculptured stones appears to have been almost without material result. "The principal temple, once a noble edifice crowning a large pyramidal substructure, alone exhibits parts of rooms and remains of walls." He speaks of the close resemblance of this temple to those at Palenque. On a detached slab he discovered the only sculpture worth copying; this, a fine female form highly ornamented with skirt reaching to the feet, is almost exactly similar in its ornamentation to one or two found at Palenque.

Piedras Negras.—It was at this point, situated on the right bank of the Usumasinta, just within the Guatemalan boundary, that Mr Maler made his chief discoveries. I will give only a summary of results, as an attempt to particularize would extend this notice of his paper to too great a length. He found no fewer than thirty-seven stelæ, twenty-three of which were photographed, fourteen being too much injured to render this of any use. These, when in position, or at the places where they had been erected, though now overturned and sometimes broken, were usually on the upper terrace of a pyramid in front of the temple which stood upon it. These varied in height from 200 to 400 cm. Six lintels and five altars were examined, some of the former bearing the most important sculptures discovered. Some ten or eleven structures, or so-called temples, are more or less fully described. Large photographic illustrations of twelve inscriptions are given. The more important of these for study are those on Stela 1, Stela 3, Stela 36, and Lintel 2. The sculpture on the last, which covers a double plate of the large quarto, represents the most interesting scene of the entire series, and reminds one of some of the scenes sculptured on the Assyrian temples. Six elaborately costumed warriors, with high, cap-shaped helmets (each helmet crowned with a spreading brush of feathers), and each on bended knees holding in his right hand a lance, face the ruler or chieftain of lofty stature who stands before them with a spear in his right hand, shield on his left, and head profusely decorated with feather ornaments. On the left margin is a column of large double glyphs—an initial series; over the heads of the kneeling warriors are four lines of glyphs, and over the heads of the chief and aid, who stands behind him, two lines; and on the right margin two columns.

One important fact mentioned is the repeated evidences of coloring remaining on the sculptures; for example, of Stela 2 Mr Maler says: "Remnants of color were still visible, as follows: face, arms, and garment, bright red; background, dark red; edge of garment, blue;

breast-cape, blue ; feathers always green." Looking at his photographs of the stelæ, and imagining these colors applied, we can obtain some idea of the brilliant effect, at least to the native eye.

Another unusual feature observed here is the plaited turban. However, the most important facts bearing on the progress of art and the geographical direction of its advance are found in the presence here of numerous stelæ and the very close similarity in the forms of the glyphs at Piedras Negras and those at Palenque. In fact there appears to be a greater difference between the sculptures (glyphs and figures) at Piedras Negras and those at Menche as given by Charnay, than those at the former place and Palenque. Was Piedras Negras the intermediate point between Palenque and Copan? A critical study of the data now available may be sufficient to give a probable answer to this inquiry. The studies of historians and linguists appear to be gradually leading to the conclusion that the Chol and Chorti groups (supposed authors of the Copan and Quirigua structures) are not only more nearly related to the Tzental group than to any other of the Mayan divisions, but formerly had their chief home on the Usumasinta where a small remnant of the Chol tribe is still found.

I have not as yet had opportunity to study the inscriptions carefully, but the inscription on Stela 36 is so distinct, and the numerals in the ordinary form, that but little study is necessary to determine the initial series. This, using Goodman's nomenclature, is as follows :

9 cycles	= 1,296,000 days.
10 katuns	= 72,000 days.
6 ahaus	= 2,160 days.
5 chuens (months)	= 100 days.
9 days	= 9 days.
Total	1,370,269 days.

This number of days, counting from the normal date 4 Ahau, 8 Cumhu, year 8 Ben, will bring us to the day 8 Muluc, 2 Zip, year 6 Lamat. This corresponds with the numbers of the day and month glyphs which follow ; the month date, however, stands some distance below the day glyph.

I have referred to this inscription simply to show that the normal date used as the era in so many other inscriptions was the one in use here. The 9 cycles so common elsewhere are also found in this inscription, which, if Seler and Mr Bowditch be correct in their supposition, will show the date of the inscription, or age in which it was made, to be

substantially the same as that of most of the other Mayan inscriptions which have been discovered.

The plan of the group of ruins at Piedras Negras, as given by Mr Maler in his plate xxxiii, is worthy of careful study, as it reveals the fact that in two or three instances the hill-side was selected as the building point, thus doing away with the necessity for terraces in the rear.

It may be observed by his map that the author identifies Palenque as one of the points visited by Cortés on his trip to Honduras. I believe, notwithstanding the almost universal opinion to the contrary, that he is correct in this conclusion.

It is to be hoped that the Peabody Museum will continue its explorations in the same section, as it is evident from the number of undescribed ruins Mr Maler locates on his map, that the field is far from being exhausted.

CYRUS THOMAS.